

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated April 5, 2006, and support the accompanying Request for Continued Examination as a submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c). Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13, 17-19, 21-24, and 36-52 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner (1) allowed claims 37-45; (2) objected to claims 3, 22, 23, 36, 47, and 51 (as being dependent upon a rejected based claim); and (3) rejected claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 17-19, 21, 24, 46, 48-50, and 52 as follows:

- Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-11, 13, 17-19, 46, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,162,223 to Orsak et al. ("Orsak"); and
- Claims 5, 21, 24, 49, 50, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orsak.

Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that rejected claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 17-19, 21, 24, 46, 48-50, and 52 are neither anticipated nor obvious. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, applicants have (1) canceled pending claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13, 17-19, 21-24, 36, and 46-52, without prejudice, and (2) added new claims 53-90 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention recited in the "allowable" (objected to) claims. In view of the above amendments and these remarks, applicants respectfully request consideration of the new claims, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

I. Request for Continued Examination

Applicants are submitting herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This Request complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. In particular:

- (i) Prosecution in the application is closed, since the last Office action was a final Office action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113.
- (ii) The Request is accompanied by a submission as set forth at 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c), specifically, the amendments and remarks set forth herein.
- (iii) The Request is accompanied by the fee set forth at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request grant of their Request for Continued Examination.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 17-19, 21, 24, 46, 48-50, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103(a) as being anticipated by, or obvious over, Orsak. Applicants traverse these rejections. Orsak does not teach or suggest each of the elements of any of these claims. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, applicants have canceled the rejected claims, without prejudice, and added new claims based on dependent claims that the Examiner indicated were allowable over the prior art. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims with or without amendment in the future.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated that claims 3, 22, 23, 36, and 47, among others, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended these “objected to” claims to make them allowable, as described below.

IV. Claim Amendments

Applicant has, for reasons described above, (1) canceled pending claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13, 17-19, 21-24, 36, and 46-52, without prejudice, and (2) added new claims 53-90.

The new claims include six independent claims (53, 59, 67, 74, 80, and 86), as well as thirty-two dependent claims (54-58, 60-66, 68-73, 75-79, 81-85, and 87-90) depending therefrom, which more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention recited in claims that the Examiner indicated were allowable (1+3, 10+22, 10+23, 10+36, 46+47, and 46+51, respectively).

Exemplary support for the new claims is shown, without limitation, in the following table:

New Claim	Support
53 (Independent)	Claims 1+3
54	Claim 4
55	Claim 5
56	Claim 6
57	Claim 8
58	Claim 9
59 (Independent)	Claims 10+22
60	Claim 13
61	Claim 17
62	Claim 18
63	Claim 19
64	Claim 21
65	Claim 23
66	Claim 36
67 (Independent)	Claims 10+23
68	Claim 13
69	Claim 17
70	Claim 18
71	Claim 19
72	Claim 21
73	Claim 36
74 (Independent)	Claims 10+36
75	Claim 13


New Claim	Support
76	Claim 17
77	Claim 18
78	Claim 19
79	Claim 21
80 (Independent)	Claim 46+47
81	Claim 48
82	Claim 49
83	Claim 50
84	Claim 51
85	Claim 52
86 (Independent)	Claim 46+51
87	Claim 48
88	Claim 49
89	Claim 50
90	Claim 52

V. Conclusion

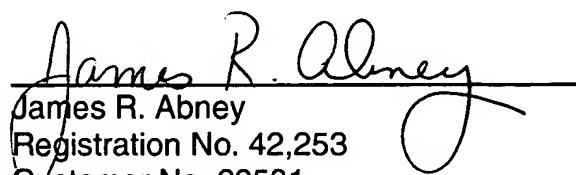
Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If there are any questions regarding this communication, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record, James R. Abney, or his associate Stanley M. Hollenberg (Reg. No. 47,658).

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on June 29, 2006.


Robin L. Davin

Respectfully submitted,
KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.


James R. Abney
Registration No. 42,253
Customer No. 23581
Attorney for Assignee
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679